

In compliance with 37 C.F.R. §§1.821-1.825, Applicants have amended the claims to recite the descriptive SEQ ID NOs that encompass sequences containing the appropriate number of Xaa's recited in the variables, A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub>.

**REMARKS**

Applicants' representative appreciates the courtesies extended by Supervisory Patent Examiner Christopher Low and Examiner Chernyshev, during several telephone interviews with the Applicants' representative. During the interviews, it was recommended that Applicants revise the Sequence Listing to incorporate the omitted sequences by the addition of new SEQ ID NOS wherein the appropriate numbers of Xaa's are represented.

Claims 1-15 are pending in the application. The specification is amended to incorporate the revised Sequence Listing. New claims 16-24 are added to clearly set forth the nature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, claims 1-24 are pending for examination on the merits.

As a follow-up to the March 13<sup>th</sup> reply to the previous Office Action, Applicants further elect the peptide of SEQ ID NO:7 as the single molecular embodiment of the peptide for examination. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants urge that the present claims are in condition for examination on the merits. Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited. Should there be any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to the above-mentioned Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By

Stephen B. Maebius

FOLEY & LARDNER  
Washington Harbour  
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20007-5143  
Telephone: (202) 672-5569  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

Stephen B. Maebius  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 35,264

**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**

1. (Thrice Amended) A peptide having at least the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-A<sub>1</sub>-C-S-A<sub>2</sub>-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:1)

in which A<sub>1</sub> and A<sub>2</sub> are amino acid sequences comprising 1 to 5 amino acids, denoted SEQ ID NOS:25-49, with the exception of the peptides selected from the group consisting of:

-W-S-P-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:2),

-W-S-S-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:3),

-W-S-Q-C-S-V-T-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:4),

-W-S-P-W-S-E-W-T-S-C-S-T-S-C-G-N-G-I-Q-Q-R-G-R- (SEQ ID NO:15),

-W-S-H-W-S-P-W-S-S-C-S-V-T-C-G-D-G-V-I-T-R-I-R- (SEQ ID NO:16),

-W-G-P-W-S-P-W-D-I-C-S-V-T-C-G-G-G-V-Q-K-R-S-R- (SEQ ID NO:17),

-W-S-Q-C-S-V-Y-C-G- (SEQ ID NO:18),

-T-E-W-S-A-C-S-K-S-C-G-M-G-F-S-T-R-V-T-N-R-N- (SEQ ID NO:19), and

-T-E-W-S-A-C-S-K-T-C-G-M-G-I-S-T-R-V-T-N-D-N- (SEQ ID NO:20).

2. (Twice Amended) The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said A<sub>1</sub> is Pro or -X<sub>1</sub>-W-X<sub>2</sub>-X<sub>3</sub>- (SEQ ID NO:5), X<sub>1</sub>, X<sub>2</sub>, and X<sub>3</sub> being chosen, independently of each other, from G, S and C, denoted SEQ. ID NOS:50-59.

3. (Twice Amended) The peptide according to claim 2, wherein said A<sub>1</sub> is -X<sub>1</sub>-W-S-X<sub>3</sub> - [(SEQ ID NO:6)], denoted SEQ ID NOS:6 and 60-64.

4. (Twice Amended) The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said A<sub>2</sub> is selected from the group consisting of -R-S-, -V-S-, and -V-T-, denoted SEQ ID NOS:65-88.

5. (Twice Amended) The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises at least the following amino acid sequence:

-W-S-X<sub>1</sub>-W-S-X<sub>2</sub>-C-S-A<sub>2</sub>-C-G- [(SEQ ID NO:7)], denoted SEQ ID NOS:7 and 89-96.

7. (Twice Amended) The peptide according to claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises the following amino acid sequence:

Y-W-S-A<sub>1</sub>-C-S-A<sub>2</sub>-C-G-Z- (SEQ ID NO:9)

in which Y and Z constitute the N- and C-terminal ends of the peptide, comprise amino acid chains having less than 6 amino acids or comprise chains of compounds that are not amino acids, denoted SEQ ID NOS:97-168.